



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***GOVERNOR EXPANDS EMERGENCY HELP FOR ARIZONANS
2-1-1 Call Center, State Agencies Prepared for Anticipated 2008 Fire Season***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today announced that the AZ 2-1-1 system is ready for the anticipated 2008 fire season and other possible emergencies at her annual fire briefing. As in years past, Napolitano also authorized funding to pre-position resources in the potentially extreme fire areas.

“Our 2-1-1 system is becoming a better resource for Arizonans each year,” the Governor said. “The 2-1-1 call center is on standby with 24 workstations and 90 state employees ready to be activated in a 2-hour window.”

Arizona 2-1-1 is the state’s official resource for immediate information on wildfire and other emergencies. The 2-1-1 Web site, www.az211.gov, provides easy access to creating disaster kits and communications plans, steps to take to protect homes and how to prepare for an evacuation. The Governor encouraged all Arizona families to visit the Web site and take the necessary steps to ensure they are prepared for an emergency.

During a wildfire, flash flood or any other emergency, emergency information containing fire updates, road closures, health concerns and protective actions will be posted on www.az211.gov. The information is updated 24 hours a day, seven days a week by state, county, local and tribal agencies.

Representatives from Arizona’s State Forestry Division, Division of Emergency Management and Government Information Technology Agency reported on the state’s progress in preparing for the season. Also in attendance were representatives from local, county, state and tribal agencies.

“Our smart pre-positioning and efficient use of resources has helped us quickly respond to the wildfires these past few years,” Napolitano said. “But we cannot be lax in our efforts. We must hope for a light fire season and prepare for a potentially dangerous one.”

For more information regarding fire safety, please visit www.az211.gov.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.